

Message

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Subject: Flint clips, March 22, 2018

Flint Clips

US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs
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MLive Here's what's next for 11 remaining Flint water crisis defendants

http://www.mlive.com/expo/erry-2018/03/9707abf8e0/heres_whats_next_for_11_remain.html

Here's what's next for 11 remaining Flint water crisis defendants

By Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com | Posted March 20, 2018 at 10:04 AM

First back: Four from Michigan DEQ

Four current and former Michigan Department of Environmental Quality employees are the next Flint water crisis defendants scheduled to return to court.

Liane Shekter-Smith, 57; Stephen Busch, 42; Patrick Cook, 54; and Michael Prysby, 54; are set to appear before Genesee District Judge Jennifer Manley on Thursday, March 22, to continue preliminary examinations.

Special prosecutor Todd Flood has said he plans to pursue involuntary manslaughter charges against two of the four -- Stephen Busch and Liane Shekter-Smith.

Busch, a district supervisor, also faces six additional criminal charges.

Shekter-Smith, former chief of the DEQ's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, is also charged with misconduct in office and willful neglect of duty.

Prysby, a district engineer responsible for Flint, is charged with two counts each of misconduct in office, tampering with evidence and violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Cook, a specialist for the DEQ's Community Drinking Water Unit, is charged with willful neglect of duty, misconduct in office and conspiracy.

Michigan DHHS Director Nick Lyon

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon is scheduled to return to Genesee District Court for continuation of his preliminary examination on Friday, March 23.

After hearing from prosecution witnesses for 17 days, Lyon and his attorneys are expected to begin to offer some of their own, including Flint water researcher Marc Edwards.

Lyon, 49, a member of Gov. Rick Snyder's cabinet, is facing charges of involuntary manslaughter and misconduct in office related to the Flint water crisis.

He was last in the courtroom of Genesee District Judge David Goggins on Feb. 27.

Chief Medical Executive Dr. Eden Wells

Dr. Eden Wells, the state's chief medical executive, is scheduled to return to court Tuesday, March 27.

Wells' preliminary examination before Judge William Crawford has lasted 11 days so far.

She faces charges of obstructing justice and lying to a peace officer, and Flood has said he intends to ask Crawford to add a charge of involuntary manslaughter when the judge considers binding the case over to Genesee Circuit Court.

Edwards is expected to testify Tuesday after having been subpoenaed by attorneys for Wells, 55.

Former Emergency Manager Darnell Earley and former DPW Director Howard Croft

Former Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley and former Department of Public Works Department Director Howard Croft had been scheduled to return to court March 19, but those appearances have been pushed back to later this month, according to Flood.

Earley, 66, and Croft, 52, have been on a parallel track in the courtroom of Judge Nathaniel Perry, and preliminary hearings have yet to start for either defendant.

Earley faces charges of false pretenses, conspiracy to commit false pretenses, willful neglect of duty and misconduct in office, and Flood has told Perry he will ask him to add a charge of involuntary manslaughter charge against him.

Croft has also been targeted for involuntary manslaughter and faces charges of false pretenses and conspiracy to commit false pretenses.

Former Emergency Manager Gerald Ambrose

Former Flint Emergency Manager Gerald Ambrose waived his preliminary examination in Genesee District Court, becoming the first water crisis defendant to move into Genesee Circuit Court.

Some legal experts have said the move by Ambrose, 68, is a strong indicator that a plea deal with prosecutors is in the works.

His case has scheduled for pre-trial before Judge Geoffrey Neithercut May 7.

The charges against Ambrose are false pretenses, conspiracy to commit false pretenses, willful neglect of duty and misconduct in office.

Two DHHS employees waiting for preliminary exams to start

Two DHHS employees haven't seen the inside of a Genesee District Court for months -- and might not for months more.

Nancy Peeler, 55, and Robert Scott, 50, had been scheduled to start their preliminary exams in January, but no replacement starting dates have been set as other cases have moved forward.

Judge Jennifer Manley has been assigned the cases and already has four other Flint water defendants' exams underway.

Peeler, director of DHHS's Program for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, is charged with misconduct in office, conspiracy and willful neglect of duty.

Scott, a data manager for the DHHS' Healthy Homes and Lead Prevention Program, is accused of misconduct in office, conspiracy and willful neglect of duty.

Prosecutors claim the pair were involved in a conspiracy involving two agency reports that concerned blood lead levels of children in Flint during the water crisis.